

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6328**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1113

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 27, 2008

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Birth Certificate Fraud.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Dembowski

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Sen. Bray

**BILL STATUS:** As Passed Senate

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill increases from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class D felony the penalty for: (1) making a false or fraudulent statement when applying for a birth certificate or when applying for permission to inspect birth records; (2) altering, counterfeiting, or mutilating a certified copy of a birth certificate; or (3) using an altered, counterfeit, or mutilated copy of a birth certificate.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2008.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** State expenditures could increase if an offender is incarcerated in a state prison rather than in a local jail. A Class D felony is punishable by a prison term ranging between six months to three years or reduction to Class A misdemeanor. The period of incarceration will depend upon mitigating and aggravating circumstances.

The average expenditure to house an adult offender was \$19,185 in FY 2007. (This does not include the cost of new construction.) If offenders can be housed in existing facilities with no additional staff, the marginal cost per offender for medical care, food, and clothing is approximately \$1,825 annually, or \$5 daily. The estimated average cost of housing a juvenile in a state juvenile facility was \$63,138. The average length of stay in Department of Correction (DOC) facilities for all Class D felony offenders is approximately ten months.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** More revenue to the Common School Fund could be collected if a larger criminal fine is assessed by the sentencing court. The maximum fine for a Class A misdemeanor is \$5,000, while the maximum fine for a Class D felony is \$10,000. Court fees for both misdemeanors and felonies are \$120.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** If an offender is sentenced to state prison rather than to a county jail, the costs to the county may be reduced. The maximum term of imprisonment for a Class A misdemeanor is up to one year. The average daily cost to incarcerate a prisoner in a county jail is roughly \$44.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** Court fees for both misdemeanors and felonies are \$120.

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Correction.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts; local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:** Indiana Sheriffs' Association.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Karen Firestone, 317-234-2106.